

SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

August 10, 2001
Stanislaus County Agricultural Center
Modesto, California

Action Team Report

Paula Landis reported on Action Team Activities. The Action Team met on May 16th and July 24th in Modesto since the last Advisory Council meeting. The topics discussed in the May 16th meeting included the SJRMP Goals, Principles, and Actions and Signatories to the MOU. Also, Dan Wermeil with CALFED gave an update on the past watershed funding cycle. Other presentations on the agenda were made by Les Grober, Regional Water Control Board, on TMDL's, and Karen Enstrom, DWR, on the West Stanislaus Stream Project. The July 24th meeting included presentations by Sam Harader, CALFED, on the Drinking Water Quality PSP, an Action Item for a letter of support for Mike Delamore, USBR, on the Grassland Bypass Project, and an update on state budget opportunities by Landis. The next Action Team meeting will be held at the Stanislaus County Agricultural Center in Modesto on September 11, 2001, at 1 p.m.

Presentation for Letters of Support

Mike Delamore, USBR, gave a presentation on the Comprehensive Monitoring Plan for the Grassland Bypass Project – Phase II. Delamore is requesting a letter of support from SJRMP for a proposal submitted by the Bureau for CALFED funding. Delamore noted that the project was initiated in 1996 and is designed to improve water quality in the wetland areas in the Central San Joaquin Valley and in the San Joaquin River. The amount of funding requested by the Bureau is \$1,305,000 (\$435,000 per year for 3 years). Paula Landis noted that this program is recognized in the 1995 SJRMP Plan. No comments were made to the letter therefore Tim Ramirez and Landis will draft final letter and send to Delamore to supplement the Bureau's CALFED proposal.

CALFED Updates

Rick Breitenbach, CALFED, gave a presentation on CALFED's foundation for a draft San Joaquin Valley Strategy. Breitenbach mentioned that the intent was to recognize the CALFED programs in elements and to see how these affect the areas people live in such as the community or environment. Another intent is to paint a picture regionally then try to get feedback. Breitenbach expressed that this is the first attempt to give to the people and that the presentation has only been shown to the management group. As for the connection between CALFED's strategy and SJRMP, both groups are working together to embrace issues and to reach CALFED's goals and objectives.

Dan Ray, CALFED, presented the 2002 ERP Solicitation package to the group. Ray gave information on the 2002 PSP including the deadline, September 21, 2001, for the proposals. The new feature for the CALFED ERP proposal is that it will be web-based and electronically submitted. A handout was distributed to the group that contained information for the 2002 ERP. Ray also added that \$150 million is available each year for the entire region.

San Joaquin NAWQA – Cycle II

Charlie Kratzer with the US Geological Survey, gave the group information on the San Joaquin National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) – Cycle II. Handouts were given out to the group with further information on the NAWQA program. From the handout, USGS Fact Sheet 071-01, it explained that this second cycle will build upon its initial assessments of water-quality conditions and will increase its investigation of long-term trends and the factors that affect water quality. Kratzer also mentioned that efforts are focused in the San Joaquin area and impacts in the Bay-Delta area. Further information on NAWQA can be found on this website:

<http://water.usgs.gov/nawqa/>

State Budget and SJRMP Program Coordinator

Paula Landis, DWR, updated the group on the budget for SJRMP. Landis mentioned that \$250,000 is given to SJRMP each year since its inception in 1989. She added that the state approved two positions for SJRMP, 1) an employee with DWR and SJRMP responsibilities and 2) a non-agency program coordinator. A position description for the coordinator was drafted and distributed to the group for comments. Further discussions on this topic will continue at the Action Team meetings. Also, a group of individuals volunteered to review applicants for the position.

Other

Alex Hildebrand, SJRFCA, expressed his concern to the group about agricultural water and future food supplies. A two-page letter was handed out to the group that talked about CALFED and the dependence on the unsustainable depletion of natural resources. Hildebrand's concern is that our resources are depleting and nobody is doing anything about it. A member suggested that we bring in a representative from the Department of Food and Agriculture to the meetings.

Date of next meeting: October 12, 2001

**ATTENDEES AT
SAN JOAQUIN RIVER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM
ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
August 10, 2001**

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